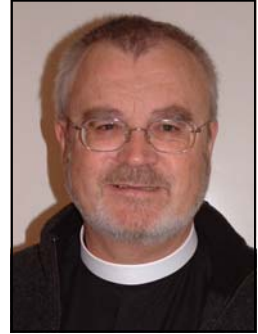


## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

### Anniversaries . . .

Sometimes, when I conduct weddings, I speak to the couple about anniversaries. You will know that there are both traditional and modern symbols for different 'landmarks', as it were, and one can find these on the 'net' or in any cheap encyclopaedia.



The first is paper; the 2<sup>nd</sup> is cotton; the 3<sup>rd</sup>, is leather, and one for every year (with some variations) up to the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary (crystal). Then we have china (20<sup>th</sup>), silver (25<sup>th</sup>), pearl (30<sup>th</sup>), coral (35<sup>th</sup>), ruby (40<sup>th</sup>), gold (50<sup>th</sup>), diamond (60<sup>th</sup>) and platinum (70<sup>th</sup>).

Sometimes, if I'm feeling mischievous, I ask couples what the symbol for being married for one hour is. (Yes – one hour!) After a moment's silence I say to them "Super Glue – because now you're *really* stuck together!" And I give them a tube as a reminder.

On the side of one particular tube I read the following instruction: '*Can remove with spirit.*' It made me think that here is where the analogy breaks down. Any relationship based on love – whether it's between a married couple, or two friends, or the members of a church community – actually needs the *constant* application of the Spirit. This is precisely why Martin Way Methodist Church will continue to grow and flourish – irrespective of membership numbers changing up or down each year – because the members are bonded together by God's Spirit.

And this isn't just romantic wishful thinking. The history of the Christian Church over the past 2000 years will bear me out. A Methodist Church (or a church of *any* denomination, for that matter) is different from a secular group, such as an amateur operatic society, or a

bowling club for example, in a distinct and important way. That is, the Church is a *divine* institution and as such is under the protection of Almighty God. We are the Body of Christ, and nothing can ultimately destroy us.

It's not a recipe for complacency, but hope. Even though most of you will have lived your entire adult lives in a period that has seen almost continual *numerical* decline in the Methodist Church, there is much cause for optimism and hope for the future. This church of ours, to which we belong, which we love and which, in God's name and for Christ's sake, we serve – *is* precious, not just in our own eyes as we prepare to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It's precious in *God's* eyes, too!

May the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May be a time of great joy as you celebrate your 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and may the next 50 years, in the power and love of Almighty God, be truly a golden age in the life of Martin Way Methodist Church – as we are bound together by his Spirit, which energises and transforms us, and leads us ever on.

With love and prayers,

*Barrie*

————— < 0 > —————

**Christian  Aid**

**CHRISTIAN AID** week commences on **11<sup>th</sup> May 2008** and so I am asking for your help once again. Please prayerfully consider taking part in the house-to-house collections. Please sign up for one or more roads from the list on the table in the corridor (outside the Hall).

At the end of Christian Aid week, on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May, there is a sponsored walk around London. Tony and several others will be walking – if you would like either to join them or sponsor them please let Tony know.

*Maralyn Loft*



A small group from Martin Way & South Wimbledon, 6 in all, have just returned from a refreshing and regenerating few days at Spring Harvest. Apart from enjoying each others company, sharing in meals and the washing up!! We spent time together studying the bible and worshipping with several hundred other Christians in one of the biggest ‘tents ever made’ and fondly described as ‘The Big Top’.

The theme of Spring Harvest over the past 3 years has been ‘The Big Story’. One God, One People and this year, One Hope, which was explored through bible readings, seminars, activities for all ages, worship, prayer, music dance and drama to name but a few.

Spring Harvest has so much to offer that it’s sometimes difficult to choose which event, seminar or activity you want to go along to the most. There are numerous workshops ranging from art, dance and drama to worship, new songs and even audio/visual workshops. The prayer house is open for drop in for the best part of the day and apart from the workshops in the afternoons there are several other topics that might just grab your interest. Depending upon your own personal taste or mood at the end of the day there is the choice of the ‘Major Big Top’ worship time or if you prefer a more relaxed meditative time following a busy day, there is a quieter ‘Iona’ style worship held in a smaller venue. However, if you are that ‘wacked out’ you can relax in your chalet with a cup of coffee and watch what’s happening in ‘The Big Top’ on T.V. If you have some energy left for the late night events, again there is plenty to choose from. At Spring Harvest you are privileged to hear some of the finest speakers and worship leaders together with some of the best children’s leaders and youth specialists in the U.K.

There is just so much to do you are spoilt for choice and that’s not forgetting the swimming pool & spa, funfair & ten pin bowling,

snooker & table tennis and of course the ‘early morning stretch and jog. Of course we always intended joining the latter but never seemed to manage it somehow as the cup of tea in bed always appeared to get the vote from most of us, well Abby and me anyway.

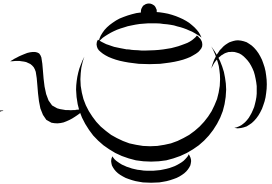
There is so much more I could tell you about Spring Harvest but the best way to find out is to experience it for yourself, so why don’t you join us next year for fun, laughter, sharing and best of all 5 full days of soaking and bathing in the love of Jesus. Spring Harvest ‘09’ is entitled Apprentice – Walking in the Way of Christ. So if you are interested in finding out a bit more, then have a word with either, Tony, Mike, Abbey or myself and we will offer to show you the programme and Study Guide from this year together with the coloured brochure giving a few details that explain about next year.

*Brenda Cannon*



————— < 0 > —————

**OPEN DOORS  
GREAT BIG TEA PARTY**



I am organising another Tea Party for Open Doors (A Charity for Persecuted Christians.) this year but with a slight difference. Instead of it being held at Church I am organising a walk and then a picnic Tea Party with Tea/Coffee and Scones, Jam & Cream– hopefully if weather permits.

People can joins us for all the afternoon or just the Tea party it is up to you to decide. The only thing is I will be asking for donations towards the refreshments that I provide and all monies will go towards Open Doors.

It will be held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June in the afternoon and more details to follow keep an eye in weekly notices. So put the date in your diaries and hope to you then.

*Abby Herring*

# Reconstructing Mission



**World Mission Conference  
The Hayes, Swanwick, 6-8 June 2008**

When South Africa was given freedom, people talked about reconstructing their country. When the Tsunami came in South and South East Asia, governments and communities debated how to reconstruct the lives of affected people.

Reconstruction is an essential process through which people can rebuild new communities, new ways of life and new relationships among themselves. In a context where conflicts exist, where disaster is a reality and where oppression and exploitation are part of structures and relationships between communities and individuals, we ask the question 'Can reconstruction be a method of mission in God's world?' Speakers include:

Dr Philomena Mwaura,  
President IAMS  
International  
Association for  
Mission Studies



The Revd Dr Carlos Emilio Ham  
World Council of Churches  
Programme Executive for  
Spirituality  
Latin America  
and the Caribbean



Plus a variety of workshops exploring what 'reconstructing mission' means in practical terms around the world, worship from the worldwide church, crèche, full children's programme, Saturday evening event, bookstall and excellent company among others with a heart for God's mission globally.

**For booking details contact: Philip Scribbins, [mwmps1@waitrose.com](mailto:mwmps1@waitrose.com)  
Tel: +44 (0)1442 823202 or go to [www.mwm.org.uk](http://www.mwm.org.uk)**

Reconstructing Mission 2008 is sponsored ecumenically by Methodists for World Mission and



Anglicans in  
World Mission



Christians Aware

**The Methodist Church**

It is organised by staff of the Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies  
The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham. [www.queens.ac.uk](http://www.queens.ac.uk)





# Gospel Concert

with

# Vox

7.30pm Thurs. 8th May  
St. John's Church, Grove Lane, Kingston (behind Penrhyn Road Campus)

**FREE ENTRY**  
with  
**REFRESHMENTS**

Concert Arranged by  
Kingston University  
Chaplaincy  
and  
Collegiate Music

Phone: 020 8547 7311  
chaplaincy@kingston.ac.uk

**VOX is Kingston University's contemporary vocal ensemble, directed by jazz singer Liz Swain.**

**The concert will focus on the New Gospel style of music with some thoughts and reflections on the gospel music tradition from members of the group.**

## **DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI**

Dear Friends,

Burma's detained democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will mark her 63rd birthday on 19 June. She remains the world's only imprisoned Nobel Laureate, and is now in her 12th year of house arrest. She led her party, the National League for Democracy, to an overwhelming victory in the 1990 elections, but the ruling military regime refused to accept the results and instead imprisoned the victors and intensified its grip on power.



Although she is a Buddhist, Aung San Suu Kyi once told a foreign missionary that her favourite verse in the Bible is John 8:32 - "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." She also asked Christians around the world to pray for Burma.

On 19 June, please remember Aung San Suu Kyi in your prayers. As a mark of solidarity with her and the oppressed people of Burma, we request that you send a birthday card to her. It is not known whether or not she will be able to receive the cards, but the authorities will certainly see them. The more cards that are sent the better, because it will show the regime that the world will not forget Aung San Suu Kyi. Please send birthday cards, with messages of encouragement, to:

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi  
Nobel Laureate  
54 University Avenue  
Rangoon (Yangon)  
Burma (Myanmar)

Please be aware that post can take several weeks, so please send your cards to her by the end of May.

In Christ,

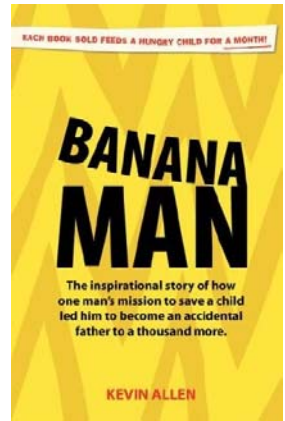
*Ben Rogers*

Advocacy Officer, South Asia  
Christian Solidarity Worldwide

## BOOK REVIEW

### **BANANA MAN – *The Inspirational Story of How One Man's Mission to Save a Child Led Him to Become an Accidental Father to a Thousand More***

by Kevin Allen - RRP £9.99 (Every book sold feed ONE child for a month!)



This book is not about Eric, who eats bananas and changes into a super hero, but about Kevin and his goal to feed a thousand of children in South Africa. I suppose in a way he is a kind of super hero, as he managed to do most of this alone with some help from a group of nuns.

I read this book in a day and could not put it down. What a brave and wonderful man, and what an understanding wife! If you want to know if there are still people in the world who care about the human race and want to make a change, then this is the book for you. I heard about this book about a year ago from someone who was involved with the author and she said it was going to be a fabulous book. It is amazing what inspires people to do things and a simple TV show did this for Kevin. He packed his bags, took his life savings and went to find this young South African boy and a nun. He put his life at risk to help, not only this one boy but, many children and is continuing to do so today. Some of the money from the book goes to the charity he has set up, so even if you don't feel like following in his footsteps, you can do some good from your arm chair with your feet up! This book shows just how governments can forget about people, because they don't fit into the economic pattern of life, and it is an uncomfortable truth that we all push aside. I felt, reading this book that my family is so lucky, we live in our comfortable house with electrical appliances at every turn, food in our cupboards and in good health. Kevin met families who had no food, no money, where dying of AIDS and slept on dirt floors with no blankets. Most of these children were orphans of AIDS and some had been taken in by other families. However they too were struggling and too poor to send the children to school or feed and cloth them.

Despite the feeling of despair you experience at times from this book, I did get a real 'feel good factor' about it. Yes life was bad for those children, but Kevin had come into their lives and had made a real change. In their township he was a 'Super Hero'.

**ISBN-13:** 978-1905823178    Review by Annemarie Pallister.

*This book is available from any good bookshop or [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)*



## THOUGHT OF THE MONTH - MAY 2008

So we have reached the merry month of May, a month that is greeted with celebrations. There are processions presided over by the May Queen and entertainment provided by Morris dancers. Presumably we feel that with the coming of May the winter is finally over and spring has arrived. May also heralds the approach of summer, although, some are more cautious.



The annual question arises, does the old saying “Cast not a clout till May be out” refer to the blossom on the May tree or to the month? The modern attitude to such a question is probably, “Who cares anyway?” There is no denying that May is a pleasant month with the leaves breaking out on the trees and the grass taking on a look of new eager freshness.

But may can be used without a capital letter and when it is, it becomes difficult to define. When we think about it, many short seemly insignificant words we use everyday are difficult to define when taken out of context. In this Old Irish Blessing it expresses a wish

May the road rise up to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine upon your face,  
And the rain fall soft upon your fields  
And until we meet again  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

May you have a month of special blessing with happy enjoyable days which will live on in your memory.

*Bill Cox*

## **MARTIN WAY METHODIST CHURCH**

### **50th ANNIVERSARY - 10th May**

It's our 50th ANNIVERSARY. Our big news this month is that we are celebrating 50 years of worship in the "new" church, which was opened on 10th May 1958.



We shall be holding our MAY FAIR on Saturday 10th May from 10am to 2pm. There will be stalls, lunches, cakes, games and all the fun of the fair. The stalls will include Plants, Crafts, Books, Karen's Stall, Lucky Dip and of course a Raffle. Should you wish to donate anything for any of the stalls please put it in the big blue box in the entrance of the side door.

On Sunday 11th May, we welcome back Rev David Chapman and his family. David, minister at Martin Way from 1995 to 2000, will be leading our celebration service at 10.30am.

So come along and join with us on Saturday and Sunday as we celebrate. A warm welcome awaits all.

————— < 0 > —————

### **THANK YOU**

I would like to thank, and express my appreciation to everyone for their prayers, concern, cards and good wishes during and following my recent operation. This has meant a great deal to me and has helped my recovery. I am pleased to say that both my surgeon and consultant have said that I am doing well, although it is likely to be a few more weeks before I am back to my 'normal' self. Particular thanks to Roy and Lesley for dealing with weekly finance matters during my absence.

Thanks again

*John Butland*

## **‘CAN YOU GIVE ME A DRINK?’**



**Wimbledon Circuit** holds its annual '**Quiet Day**' on **17<sup>th</sup> May** from 11am to 3.30pm at St. Michael's Convent, 56 Ham. Common, Richard, Surrey, TW10 7JH.

This year it will be based on John, Chapter 4 and led by Rev Joan Edwell from the Kingston Circuit.

Come and enjoy a time of quiet and refreshment, with optional activities for focus and prayer with the day finishing off with an Iona communion service in the chapel.

Please bring a packed lunch, but hot and cold drinks will be available throughout the day.

————— < 0 > —————

## **THE BENEVOLENT FUND**

Everyone is aware of the monthly collection from our Benevolent Fund, and it is important that you all should know what happens to the income! Apart from any local demands, we do make periodic donations to various of the following Charitable Organisations:

Shelter	<i>The Samaritans</i>	St.Raphael's Hospice
NCPCC	Christian Care	<i>Corrymeela Link</i>
Guide Dogs	<i>The Tear Fund</i>	Action for Blind People
Mildmay Mission Hospital		<i>Premier Radio</i>
<i>The Royal Marsdon Hospital</i>		Biblelands Society
Macmillan Cancer Relief		<i>Salvation Army</i>
<i>Methodist Relief &amp; Development Fund</i>		Muscular Dystrophy
Livability (previously The Shaftsbury Society)		

Our help is always appreciated, and thank you for all you do to make these donations possible.

*John Butland*

## PUZZLE CORNER

Answers to the Bible Word Search from last month

ACCOUNT(10,12,W)  
 AIR(7,15,NW)  
 APPEARED(14,8,S)  
 BEASTS(9,2,W)  
 BIRDS(11,6,E)  
 BLESSED(8,3,E)  
 BREATHED(8,11,E)  
 CREATED(9,12,N)  
 DAY(8,9,E)  
 DUST(9,6,SE)  
 EARTH(13,7,S)  
 EVENING(2,9,SE)  
 FACE(6,5,S)  
 FEMALE(2,8,S)  
 FIELD(10,15,E)  
 FILL(15,7,S)  
 FINISHED(8,14,E)

FISH(1,12,S)  
 FOOD(14,2,W)  
 FORMED(6,5,SW)  
 FRUITFUL(15,13,W)  
 GIVE(2,7,NE)  
 GOD(2,6,SE)  
 GREEN(10,5,N)  
 GROUND(1,5,S)  
 HEAVENS(13,11,NW)  
 IMAGE(5,11,NE)  
 INCREASE(6,14,NE)  
 LIFE(8,7,NW)  
 MADE(6,10,E)  
 MAN(3,4,N)  
 MORNING(5,15,N)  
 NOSTRILS(12,1,S)  
 NUMBER(1,4,E)

PLANT(2,15,NE)  
 RAIN(2,3,E)  
 RESTED(9,1,SE)  
 SEA(15,6,NW)  
 SEED(11,10,W)  
 SEVENTH(1,14,NE)  
 SHRUB(15,6,N)  
 SIXTH(2,1,E)  
 SPRUNG(2,1,S)  
 STREAMS(6,2,SE)  
 SUBDUE(1,3,SE)  
 SURFACE(6,2,S)  
 TREE(11,5,E)  
 VAST(15,12,W)  
 WATERED(4,14,N)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	<b>G</b>	S	I	X	T	H	O	D	R	N	I	N	S	I	N
2	<b>H</b>	P	N	S	T	S	A	E	B	E	D	O	O	F	B
3	S	R	A	I	N	U	T	B	L	E	S	S	E	D	U
4	N	U	M	B	E	R	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>
5	G	N	B	V	<b>N</b>	F	<b>S</b>	<b>A</b>	E	G	T	R	E	E	H
6	R	G	I	D	O	A	I	N	D	A	B	I	R	D	S
7	O	G	O	R	U	C	<b>N</b>	L	E	U	M	L	E	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
8	U	F	M	<b>Y</b>	E	H	G	T	V	S	S	A	A	I	
9	N	E	<b>O</b>	E	G	T	A	D	A	Y	A	T	R	P	L
10	D	M	V	R	N	M	A	D	E	E	S	E	T	P	L
11	<b>U</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	E	I	<b>T</b>	<b>R</b>	B	R	E	A	T	H	E	D
12	F	L	V	T	N	U	O	C	C	<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>	T	S	A	V
13	I	E	<b>O</b>	A	R	I	N	L	U	F	T	I	U	R	F
14	S	<b>N</b>	L	W	O	I	N	F	I	N	I	S	H	E	D
15	H	P	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>T</b>	F	I	E	L	<b>D</b>	<b>H</b>

Letters in **BOLD** above are the hidden verse

reading left to right starting at the top left hand corner  
and going down through the letters the hidden verse is:



**God is in heaven and you are on earth**

Ecc1 5:2 niv



## PUZZLE CORNER

### Bible Quotefall Puzzles

To solve these puzzles, insert the letters in each column into the boxes below them to form the words of a Bible quotation.

The letters are not necessarily in order-it's up to you to determine which letter goes in which box below it. Each letter will be used **once** and **only once**. Black squares usually indicate the end of a word but are also used as spacers at the beginning and/or ending of a quotation.

QUOTEFALL 41

N	L	E	H	S	I	N	E	A	E	O	O	F	W
B	H	E	S	R	I	G	H	S	D	C	R	O	
T		T				H	H	T			U	S	

QUOTEFALL No.42



H	R	E	S	B	T	O	A	M	G		W	O	O	E	S	T
P	E	O	F	E	S	C	I	B	E		F	H	S	L	S	E
L	V	Y			E	S		N	E		T	I	E	M		

The above puzzles are thanks to <http://biblewordgames.com>

# CHURCH DIARY



Sun	4	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Valerie Ashcroft
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Faith Nyota
Tue	6	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	9	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	10	10am - 2pm	50th Anniversary 'Fun Day and Lunch'
		4pm	Christchurch with St Phillip Future Links
			Building Service of Dedication
Sun	11	10.30am	50th Anniversary & Communion Service led by Rev David Chapman
			<i>Start of Christian Aid Week</i>
Tue	13	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	14	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>History of Nonsuch</i>
Sat	17	11am	Wimbledon Circuit 'Quiet Day'
Sun	18	10.30am	Praise Service led by David Somers
			<i>Christian Aid Walk</i>
Tue	20	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>David Heaton</i> -
			Life at Number 10
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Thurs	22	8.00pm	Preacher's Meeting at Stoneleigh

Fri	23	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	25	10.30am	Morning Service led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
		6.30pm	Bible Study led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	27	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Wed	28	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Annual General Meeting</i>

*Please refer to the Website ([www.martinway.org.uk](http://www.martinway.org.uk))  
or Weekly Notice Sheet for any additional information*

————— < 0 > —————

We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday this month a very

*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:

**Seleso Sepanya** on **3rd May**  
**Lesedi Sepanya** on **17th May**  
**James Smith** on **18th May**  
**Alex Pallister** on **19th May**  
**Sherie Nyota** on **24th May**



————— < 0 > —————

## **FUTURE LINKS BUILDING**

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, Christchurch with St. Phillip, Worcester Park warmly invite us to a service of dedication to celebrate the opening of their Future Links building. The service will commence at 4pm in the church followed by a celebration tea in the halls. Further information from Anthony Ellis 020 8337 3489 or [antellis1@googlemail.com](mailto:antellis1@googlemail.com)

Thank you to you all who entered the Poster competition for the Mayfair Fair. Our judges Barrie Tabraham, Gwen Edwards and Jean Gear had the hard task of deciding who would win (Thank you to them for their help).



MAY  
FAIR  
2008

As we did not have any entries for the over 12 year olds, we decided to split the middle age group which was 6 - 11 to 6 - 9 year olds and 10 -11 year olds.

**First Prize** was given to;

Ella Rose Smith aged 3½ - Under 5's entry

Sheya McAllister aged 7 – 6-9 year old entry

Sophie Osborn aged 10 – 10-11 year old entry

**Second prize** went to;

Rebecca Smith aged 9 – 6-9 year old entry

Natalie Johnson aged 10 – 10-11 year old entry

Well done to them all. Look out for the 3 winning entries on our Mayfair posters and all entries will be displayed at the Mayfair on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 10am until 2pm** – so don't forget to put the date in you diaries and hope to see you there.

Items for the **June Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,  
(email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 18th May** at the latest